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NOTES ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

CONDUCTED BY HORACE E. FLACK

Coal Mines, Illinois: At the special session of the Illinois legislature held early in the past year, a law was enacted which provides for suitable protection from fire in coal mines. This law makes it the duty of the mine owner to establish a system of pipes, of certain size, carrying water from a standing pipe, tank, or pond into the mine, with hose connections at definite locations and at stated intervals throughout the mine. These hose connections are to be so located that a fifty-foot hose will carry water from the pipes to any point in the mine. The hose shall be tested to a pressure of two hundred pounds per square inch.

Where passage-ways are timbered, there shall be provided two lines of automatic sprinklers of "fusible fire plug type," and so constructed that 165 degrees F. shall release the water. These sprinklers are to be placed not more than ten feet apart; and where cribbing is more than three feet in vertical thickness one sprinkler shall be provided for each sixty-four square feet of horizontal area of such cribbing.

Special provision has been made for the protection of underground stables located within 1000 feet of the hoisting shaft. In these one sprinkler shall be provided for each 64 square feet of surface. In those stables not provided with sprinklers barrels of water shall be kept, and they shall be not more than fifty feet apart. Two barrels of water shall be placed in each passage way into which the stable opens. And each stable shall also be provided with a chemical fire extinguisher of a stated capacity.

Every mine shall have at least one extinguisher of not less than three-gallon capacity and one of not less than six-gallon capacity for each fifty employes, with a minimum of six extinguishers to be placed at convenient distances throughout the mine.

Unless an underground stable is fire-proof, it shall not be nearer than six yards to any regular traveling way, and each stable shall have fire proof doors at each opening, and not more than two days' supplies of hay and bedding and a week's supply of grain shall be kept in the mine.

The law further provides for systems of telephones and electric gongs throughout the mine that the miners may be more easily warned of fire in any part. One telephone must be installed for every one hundred miners employed.

New mines developing after the passage of this law must be provided with fire-proof roofs in every passage-way, and every part of each underground stable must be fire-proof.

Neglect or refusal to comply with the law shall be punishable by fine of from $50 to $200, or by imprisonment for not less than three months. A mine manager convicted of violation of the law shall have his certificate of competence revoked by the State Mining Board and another shall not be granted him for at least three months.

County inspectors may be appointed by the county commissioners of each mining county upon the request of the State Mine Inspectors. It shall be the duty of the county inspector to enforce the mining laws in his county and he shall have therein the same powers as the State Mine Inspectors. In case of violation of the law he shall file with the court having jurisdiction a complaint asking that the offender be bound over to the next grand jury of the county.

LORIAN P. JEFFERSON

Health, Maryland Board of: By an act of the legislature approved on April 30, 1910, the State Board of Health of the state of Maryland was authorized to establish and maintain five bureaus; a Bureau of Communicable Diseases, a Bureau of Bacteriology, a Bureau of Chemistry, a Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, and a Bureau of Vital Statistics.

The Bureau of Communicable Diseases is instituted for the purpose of securing information regarding those diseases, considering their prevalence and causes, and devising means for their control, investigating epidemics and nuisances and providing methods for their eradication. A monthly bulletin is to be issued by this bureau to report to local health officers the results of the investigations of the Bureau.

The Bureau of Bacteriology will conduct inquiries into the nature and causes, sources and vehicles of infectious diseases; maintain under the direction of the State Board of Health, a laboratory wherein to carry on the work of the Bureau. The services of this bureau are to be free to the local boards of health and to practicing physicians of the state, in all matters pertaining to these diseases, and to the vaccine agent of the State for testing vaccine virus. In this laboratory public and private water supplies, milk, and other foods will be examined free of charge.